



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held October 16, 2007, the Board took the following action:

52

The following item was called up for consideration:

Recommendation as submitted by the Chief Executive Officer approving a Department of Health Services appropriation adjustment (BSA 96) to reduce the use of funds from the Enterprise fund Designation by \$30,471,000 and to make other necessary transfers of appropriation; with a net increase of 372.5 positions, primarily to reflect budgeted census at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer and Sheila Shima, Deputy Chief Executive Officer; and Dr. Bruce Chernof, Director, Alan Wecker, Acting Financial Officer, and Catherine O'Brien, Assistant Chief, Human Resources, Department of Health Services answered questions posed by the Board. Joshua Rutkoff, SEIU Local 721 and Dr. Shah, also addressed the Board.

After discussion, the following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Molina and Antonovich:

"The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has proposed changes to the Department of Health Services' (DHS) 2007-08 Adopted Budget to add 357 budgeted positions at Harbor-UCLA and Rancho Los Amigos for additional beds to help meet the medical needs of patients previously served by Martin Luther King, Jr.-Harbor Hospital (MLK). Although the recommendation to add these positions did not take into account the budgeted positions that are no longer needed at MLK, there are still unanswered questions regarding the additions and deletions of positions. The CEO has now provided us with some recommendations to delete those positions and other costs at MLK and to make the necessary revenue adjustments related to those reductions.

(Continued on Page 2)

Item 52 (Continued)

“Another concern is that DHS must ensure that all qualified employees previously at MLK who can work in the recommended new budgeted positions at Harbor and Rancho are transferred to those positions rather than to new positions throughout DHS. DHS must provide us with a report that gives us those assurances. Bringing in new County employees to fill those positions instead of reassigning qualified MLK employees, as appropriate, will only make the pending DHS deficit worse.

“I, therefore recommend that the Board:

1. Approve Item Number 52, the Chief Executive Officer’s recommendations regarding adjustments to the Department of Health Services 2007-08 Adopted Budget, and the additional recommendations in his related memorandum, including the deletion of budgeted positions at MLK, adjustments to revenues related to those costs, and recognition of the SB 474 South Los Angeles Medical Services Preservation Fund;
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Health Services to report back within 30 days on efforts to match qualified MLK employees to the new positions at Harbor and Rancho prior to considering new hires; and
3. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to place the Department of Health Services on a hiring freeze, pending receipt of that report.”

After further discussion, Supervisor Knabe offered an amendment, seconded by Supervisor Molina (Supervisor Yaroslavsky being absent), that the Board instruct the Chief Executive Officer to report back by November 1, 2007 with guidelines and parameters that will be used to evaluate the most appropriate and critical use of the SB 474 preservation funds. The report should include eligible services for which SB 474 funds may be used and reimbursement for services to the uninsured provided by non-County hospitals and clinics for which the County has agreed to pay in response to the MLK-Harbor downsizing.

(Continued on Page 3)

Item 52 (Continued)

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried (Supervisor Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Approved the Chief Executive Officer's recommendations regarding adjustments to the Department of Health Services 2007-08 Adopted Budget, and the additional recommendations in his related memorandum, including the deletion of budgeted positions at MLK, adjustments to revenues related to those costs, and recognition of the SB 474 South Los Angeles Medical Services Preservation Fund;
2. Instructed the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Health Services to report back within 30 days on efforts to match qualified MLK employees to the new positions at Harbor and Rancho prior to considering new hires; and
3. Instructed the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - Place the Department of Health Services on a hiring freeze, pending receipt of the report; and
 - Report back to the Board by November 1, 2007 with guidelines and parameters that will be used to evaluate the most appropriate and critical use of the SB 474 preservation funds. The report should include eligible services for which SB 474 funds may be used and reimbursement for services to the uninsured provided by non-County hospitals and clinics for which the County has agreed to pay in response to the MLK-Harbor downsizing.

In addition, the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Health Services were instructed to prepare a single comprehensive report that speaks to the entire Department of Health Services, which should include changes at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, registry costs and savings, employee placement, the number of vacant positions; and the number of positions that are not funded, in addition to other issues raised during the discussion of Item Nos. S-1 and 52.

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Attachments

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Auditor-Controller
Chief Executive Officer
Director of Health Services